

To: Senator Dorgan
From: Robert Gipp 701-854-3456
P.O. Box 340 Fort Yates, N.D. 58538



Subject: Suicide Testimony 5-2-05

I wish to testify on the suicide issues on Standing Rock Reservation.

On morning of April 7, I saw my young friend and relative as he lay dead on the floor of his bedroom, as a result of his suicide. He was 18 years old. On that day I decided I wanted to do something to change the way life is on Standing Rock.

- **Young people are dying by committing suicide**
- **People dying from automobile accidents**
- **Drug trafficking, alcohol, speeding, D. U. I. 's and lawlessness**

MEDIAN Age is 18yrs

I made a number of telephone calls and organized and held 3 meetings of which we had 21 agencies represented from Standing Rock.

- 1. Standing Rock Community High School**
- 2. Regional Prevention Service**
- 3. Tribal Council Secretary**
- 4. Standing Rock Native Young Life**
- 5. Catholic Indian Mission**
- 6. I. H. S. Mental Health**
- 7. Children's Court Judge**
- 8. Sitting Bull College, Pres., V. P. , Dean, Staff**
- 9. Students**
- 10. Community Citizens**
- 11. Diabetes Program**
- 12. Episcopal Church**
- 13. Sitting Bull Police Science**
- 14. Suicide Prevention**
- 15. Tribal Health Adm.**
- 16. CHR = Community Health Rep**
- 17. Student Housing**
- 18. Oahe Group Home**
- 19. Tribal Hew Comm Rep**
- 20. BIA Law Enforcement, Chief, Sp Agent, Officer**

21.

We organized and held our meetings on April 15th, 22nd, and 29th.

Name: Suicide Prevention Coordinating Comm.

Mission: Co – ordinate and grow Programs that affect youth on Standing Rock.

Problem Areas: (see list)

1. Parent/ family
2. Community
3. Programs

Solutions: Listed short and long term solutions. We are currently working on goals and objectives.

Areas that we will work toward are:

1. Development programs – youth and family, Spirituality/ parents/ family.
2. Increase law enforcement on Standing Rock – Department of Justice Application.
3. Drug Task Force Agreement with N. D.
4. Co ordinate programs on Standing Rock
 - a. Need a leader
 - b. All Agencies/ Depts. Need to participate
 - c. All Reservation Schools need to be involved
 - d. Youth Tracking System

At the last meeting the group suggested it was time for me to go to the tribal council. I will be going to the Tribal Health, Education and Welfare Committee and the Judicial Committee. Hopefully, I can present our ideas to the full council and get their authority.

One of the problems is the tribe has no available funds to fund more police and youth development programs.

SUICIDE TASK FORCE MEETING

APRIL 15, 2005

SITTING BULL COLLEGE

PRESENT:

BOB GIPP	KOREEN RESSLER	LAUREL VERMILLION	LYLE ALKIRE
JON EAGLE	TIM KRAHLER	SHARON TWO BEARS	TERRY STAR
LEE JONES	DIANE GATES	ELLIOTT RHOADES	LYDIA DWARF
GEORGE MAUFORT		LOLA AGARD	MARGARET GATES
RON HIS HORSE IS THUNDER		JOHN BUCKLEY	ALTHEA WHITE TEMPLE
TRACY MANY WOUNDS		BILL REITER	SLOANE FLOBERG
ROSELYN BUFFALO BOY		CLYDE NAASZ	JENNIFER JEWETT

MISSION

COORDINATE ^{AND GROW} ~~THE~~ PROGRAMS THAT AFFECT THE YOUTH ON STANDING ROCK

LAKOTA VALUES

GENEROSITY RESPECT HUMILITY BRAVERY

TASKS

PARDON-TRIBAL ISSUES ONLY TRIBAL CODE-RHHIT
STATISTICS-LARRY W

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

NEXT MEETING APRIL 22, 2005

PROBLEM AREAS:

PARENT/FAMILY:

LACK OF SUPERVISION
NO ONE LISTENING
UNRESOLVED TRAUMA-PERSONAL, HISTORIC
LOSS OF IDENTITY
SEXUAL ABUSE
LACK OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
LACK OF VALUE FOR CHILDREN
NOT TAUGHT HOW TO GRIEVE
PERMISSIVENESS
NO CURFEW
LACK OF SPIRITUALITY
PHYSICAL/EMOTIONAL ABUSE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
GRIEF ISSUES

~~VANDALISM~~
~~GANG ACTIVITIES~~

COMMUNITY

CHEMICAL ABUSE
VIOLENCE
LACK OF COORDINATION OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES
HISTORY-LOSS OF IDENTITY
DENIAL
RETALIATION
LACK OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
NO JUVENILE CENTER
BULLYING-ISOLATION
LACK OF RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY
LACK OF RESPECT FOR COURT/POLICE
LACK OF ENFORCEMENT

~~VANDALISM~~
~~GANG ACTIVITIES~~
ALCOHOL Accessibility
No Service in MCL

PROGRAMS

LACK OF COORDINATION FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES
LACK OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
NO INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC CARE
NO JUVENILE FACILITY
LACK OF FAMILY OUTREACH

Nothing Task Force

SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS

PARENT/FAMILY

DEVELOP LEADERS IN FAMILY
SPIRITUALITY
FAMILY VALUES

COMMUNITY

SWEATLODGE INIPI HEALING
CANDLE LIGHT VIGILS
PARENT POINT OF VIEW MEETING
KINSHIP
EDUCATION TO PARENTS

PROGRAMS

YOUNG LIFE
CONTINUAL SUICIDE TRAINING
SCHOOL/STAFF/TEACHER
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
ADD TO SCHOOL CURRICULUM

LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

JUVENILE CENTER
DORMITORIES
LAW ENFORCEMENT/SECURITY FOR EACH DISTRICT
LIST OF FAMILIES-PARENTS
ONGOING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

SPIRUALITY 12 STEP PROGRAMS
TRIBAL - STATE RELATIONSHIP. (NEED FOR DRUG
DOJ Grant application (TASK FORCE)